

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 150901Z AUG 75  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9760  
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT ID  
SUBJ: POLITICAL PARTY BILL ADOPTED BY PARLIAMENT

BEGIN SUMMARY: PARLIAMENT ADOPTED NEW LAW GOVERNING  
POLITICAL PARTIES AND GOLKAR AUGUST 14 AFTER SEVEN MONTHS  
OF MARATHON COMMITTEE DEBATE WHICH RESULTED IN MINOR  
SOFTENING OF TOUGH GOVERNMENT DRAFT. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER,  
BILL ACCOMPLISHES GOVERNMENT'S PURPOSE OF LEGALIZING  
MOST OF THE CURRENT DEFACTO LIMITATIONS ON PARTIES IN  
ORDER TO HELP ENSURE VICTORY FOR ARMY BACKED GOLKAR IN  
1977 GENERAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY

1. THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES (ISLAMIC-BASED UNITY  
DEVELOPMENT PARTY AND NATIONALIST/CHRISTIAN INDONESIAN  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY), WHO ARE OVERWHELMED NUMERICALLY IN  
PARLIAMENT BY GOLKAR/ABRI (GOVERNMENT CIVILIAN AND  
MILITARY FACTIONS) MAJORITY, TO SURPRISE OF MANY FOUGHT  
LONG AND HARD FOR MORE LENIENT BILL AND PARITY WITH  
GOLKAR. THEY FAILED IN MAIN OBJECTIVES, DEMONSTRATING THAT  
PARTIES ARE STILL ALIVE, IF NOT EXACTLY THRIVING, NOT-  
WITHSTANDING RELENTLESS GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO WEAKEN THEM.

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2. IN THE END, THE PARTIES VOTED FOR CONSENSUS BECAUSE

OF THEIR MINORITY POSITION, STRONG GOVERNMENT PRESSURE AND AUGUST 15 DEADLINE FOR DECISION REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT. SOME PARTY LEADERS, NEVERTHELESS, ARE TALKING OF FILING "MINORITY REPORTS" AND ARE GRUMBLING ABOUT GOVERNMENT "POWER" TACTICS.

3. BASICALLY, NEW BILL REGULATES STATUS QUO GOVERNING PARTIES IMPOSED IN PAST BY INFORMAL PRESSURE AND DECREES, INCLUDING, FOR EXAMPLE, STRONG DISCOURAGEMENT TO PARTY MEMBERSHIP FOR CIVIL SERVANTS AND MINIMUM PARTY ORGANIZATION AT VILLAGE LEVEL. IT ALSO ADDS NEW LIMITATIONS SUCH AS LITERACY TEST FOR PARTY MEMBERSHIP. IT SUPPORTS LONG RANGE GOVERNMENT STRATEGY OF WEAKENING OLD RELIGION- AND COMMUNAL BASED PARTY LIFE IN FAVOR OF DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED POLITICIES GUIDED BY ARMED FORCES AND THEIR GOLKAR CIVILIAN AGENTS.

4. MOSLEM UNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTY FOUGHT HARD FOR, BUT FAILED TO OBTAIN, INCLUSION OF ISLAMIC IDENTIFICATION OF PARTY IN TEXT OF LAW. THEY DID, HOWEVER, WIN GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL FOR LANGUAGE IN "EXPLANATION" THAT WILL ACCOMPANY LAW NOTING THAT PARTY MAY BE ISLAMIC ORIENTED, AS LONG AS IT ADHERES TO PANCASILA STATE IDEOLOGY. GOVERNMENT VIEWS THIS AS FINALLY PUTTING TO REST, LEGALLY, CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF ISLAM STATE WHICH DIE-HARD MOSLEMS HAVE ADVOCATED IN PAST.

5. INDONESIAN DEMOCRACY PARTY LOBBIED HARD FOR LIBERALIZATION OF SECTION IN BILL REQUIRING CIVIL SERVANTS (MOST OF WHOM HAVE TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED NATIONALIST GROUP WITHIN NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY) TO SEEK PERMISSION FROM SUPERIORS TO JOIN POLITICAL PARTIES. GOVERNMENT FINALLY AGREED TO COMPROMISE WHICH, AMBIGUOUSLY, PERMITS PARTY MEMBERSHIP "WITH KNOWLEDGE" OF SUPERIORS.

6. BOTH PARTIES FOUGHT FOR MODIFICATION OF "FLOATING MASS PRINCIPLE" EMBODIED IN GOVERNMENT'S ORIGINAL DRAFT WHICH BARRED ANY PARTY ORGANIZATION AT VILLAGE LEVEL. GOVERNMENT ULTIMATELY AGREED TO LANGUAGE PERMITTING NOMINAL PARTY REPRESENTATION IN VILLAGES.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PINT, ID  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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